

A Call to Sinners to Sin no more, With Divine Relishes of Free-Grace to Saints.

By William Weyland the younger Husbandman, in Wraysbery in the County of Bucks near Stains, who being dead, yet speaketh, This said William the Lord was pleased to visit with a Disease called the Small-Pox, on the 24. of December, 1674. continuing about 15 days, and then dyed; in which time the Riches of Gods grace to a miracle so convinced him of his former lewd life, that his Faith and Repentance were as commendable on his Dying bed, as before his Cursing, Swearing, Drunkenness, Disobedience to Parents, Prophaning the Lords Day, &c. had been notoriously abominable in the days of his health.

Published as a Warning-word to Old and Young.

When this sinfull creature was taken sick, he was very much afraid of Death, because he said, he had been so vile a sinner, and especially because in former Sicknesse he had made so many *vowes and promises of amendment of life*, but at return of health proved as *sinfull as ever*: It pleased the Lord to lay this meditation so weighty upon his soul, that he was afraid God would not now hear his prayer, and therefore desired that one M.W.A. would be earnest with God for him, because said he, I have been such a wretch, *God will not hear me*; and now he begun to take up Resolutions, that if the Lord did but spare him, he would become a new man, and forsake those sins of *Drunkenness, Cursing and Swearing, &c.* which formerly he had been guilty of: A neighbour present, seeing his bitter weeping for his crying sins, heard him utter these words; if I live never so long and could weep all the days of my life it could not wash away my sins; they are as numberlesse, as the sands of the sea-shore.

On the 28. of the same month one Mrs C.A. went to visit him and found him in a very melting frame of spirit, bewailing his sins with much broken-heartedness, groans, sighs and multitudes of Tears, which did even stop his speech for some time; at last, saying, *Mistresse, you shall never hear me sweare more, nor never see me Drunk more; I will never break the Lords day more, nor sin willingly against God more.* Mrs C.A. replied, William, you must take up these Resolutions in the strength of Christ, or else they will come to nothing, as your former Resolutions have done; for, since, you have not only sinned your self, but have caused others to sin, so that you are under that *woe* which is pronounced against him that putteth a bottle to his neighbours nose, *Heb. 2. 15.* you must take heed of *vowing and not paying*, for it is to offer the sacrifice of fools: upon this, he bitterly cried out, oh, oh, oh; it is that, that is the Burden of my heart; it is that that lyeth here; striking on his breast, and breaking out into a great agony of groans and Tears, saying, I know that of my self I can do nothing but through Christ assisting me; if I live, I will live at another rate then I have done, for I had abundantly rather dy now, then not live to glory of God; I know I am a vile sinner, yet Jesus Christ came into the world to die for sinners, of whom I am chief; and I know one drop of his blood hath power enough to cleanse my double-dyed sins, and through the grace of God I am now resolved to be a follower of Christ: then it was told him, he must take up a cross, and sit down, and count the cost; for his old companions will come about him, and call him *fanaticke*, saying, are you now William grown so precise, that now you cannot take off your cups, and so his portion must be scoffs and jeers; to which he replied, *In this I shall greatly rejoyce.*

On the fourth of January following, there was a sentence of death upon him sensibly, upon which he said to Mrs C.A. *I must dy, what must I do to be saved?* she replied, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with an unfeigned faith; at this he cried out with great vehemency of spirit, *Lord I believe*, Casting his armes towards Heaven, *Lord Jesus help my unbelief.* After this something was spoken of our fall in Adam, and rising again by Jesus Christ and of Christs fulfilling the Law for us, in answer to satans objections, with which he received much refreshment. Lifting up his hands towards heaven with great devotion, crying out, O Dear Redeemer, let thy spirit sanctify me that I may be cleansed and presented spotlesse before the throne of thy Father: some few hours after this, the same Mrs C.A. renewing her visit, with great appearance of Joy he broke forth to her, saying, *Mistresse I have cast all my sins at the feet of Christ, and I know through my Dear Mediator, who is now interceding for me, that I shall be accepted of the father.* For I am a poor sinfull wretch, but Christ was made sin for me, and through his blood and righteousness I shall be saved; oh the sufferings of Christ, one nail through his hand is more then all this sickness, and all the sufferings that I can suffer. After this, those present went to prayer, rendring him up into the hands of the Lord as a dying man; that duty being ended, it was asked him, what evidence he had, that his sins were pardoned, and that he should be saved; to this he comfortably replied, *If God had not had a purpose to have heard his prayer, and saved him, he would not have put it into his heart to have called upon him.* Thus lifting up his hands towards heaven, he cryed with a lowd voice, *Oh Grace, Grace, Grace, be to him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world.* Then was the 15. ch. of 1 Cor. and 5. c. of 2. read to him: also these following Questions was asked him.

1st. William, do you believe that the Almighty God hath by his power made Heaven and Earth, and all things therein, and that he doth still by his divine providence govern the same, so that nothing comes to passe in the world, nor to thy self but what his divine hand and counsel had determined before to be done?

2. Have you not for breaking Gods holy law deserved the curse of God here, and hell-Torments hereafter, if God should deal with you according to your deserts?

3. Are you sorry from your heart for all your transgressions, and would you not leade a new life if you was to begin again?

4. Do you from your heart desire to be reconciled to God in Jesus Christ?

5. Can you freely forgive all wrongs and injuries done to you by any manner of person whatsoever, and can you as freely ask forgiveness of all whom you have wrong'd in word or deed?

Lastly, do you firmly believe the resurrection from the dead and eternal Judgment? To which in a very Christian like frame he particularly answered, saying, that he dyed in the faith and hope of those truths propounded.

Then he was asked, what sin he was most guilty of, he answered, he was guilty of all sin but only the sin of murder, and his most constant sins was *cursing and swearing*, which he now most bitterly lamented, saying, that when he had been with the Cattle in the

field, he ordinarily *Curst* them upon the least occasion, and that then his Conscience did stir him up to go down upon his knees to beg mercy, but he said that was not enough. After this, he called to his wife, and took her by the hand, and sayd, my dear wife, *have not I heard thee sweare*, thou art not very subject to it, but some thing like an oath hath come from thee; Oh my dear wife, *sweare not at all, lye not at all, commit no sin willingly*; spend not thy time in *swearing*, but I charge thee to go with E.V. every Lords day in the Afternoon; and live *soberly, live righteously, live chastly*; then thou wilt be a widow indeed; that people may not say, *William Weylands wife is as bad as he was.* And (my dear,) bring up my child in the fear of God, and let him not get the upper hand of thee, lest he be as *disobedient* as I was to my mother; wilt thou promise me this, to which she replied, I will God assisting me; then he closed this saying, with, *Remember the dying words of thy young Husband.* After this, he asked, are any of my Uncle J. H.'s family here; 'twas answered no, but here is your Aunt E. H. he then said, Aunt, give me your hand, and pray tell my Uncle J. H. from me, to leave off his *swearing and drunkenness*; These (words he repeated again and again to her, and said Aunt, will you tell him; she replied, yes I will. Then (said he) there is H. W. Swears almost at every word; pray Mrs bid him beware and forsake it, it may be he will deny it, but 'tis too true. Oh tell all Wrasbury and Stains and R.S. though God hath heard me and healed me he may not do so with them: Oh mercy, mercy, mercy, that he did not cause a lightheadedness to seize upon me, and so have thrown me into hell, where I should never have had a saving sight of my sins, nor a sorrow for them; Oh the Love of God, oh the free grace of God, oh the mercy of God to poor sinners: oh this little thing, my heart, if I could come at it, I would pluck it out, and offer it up to God. Then said he, Mrs A. do you not think that I shall dy about midnight, she replied no, you are a strong man, and may live 3. or 4. dayes; to which he answered, I hope not so, I would not live so long: 'twas told him, he must not say so, it argues impatience; to which he said, Oh doth it so, I am sorry if I sinned, I will say so no more, I will wait upon the Lord till he calls. His father standing and weeping by him, he said, *Heaven, Heaven, Heaven, father, weep not for me father.* Then he asked Mrs C.A. saying, as soon as the breath is gone out of my body, shall I sin no more? 'twas answered, no: no more sin, no more sorrow; then he replied, what sin no more? Oh! that I could laugh when my eye strings and heart strings breaks: I shall sin no more, *ha, ha, ha*, methinks I see my dear Lord Jesu standing there pointing to the beds feet, and methinks I am in a better Room already. Having disposed of some small pittance that he had to his wife and Child; now (saith he) no more of the world, not a word of the world; and if he spake of any worldly affair, he would ask, is not this sin? He was changed into such a frame of spirit, that he often said, he was afraid to sleep, lest vain and sinful thoughts should come into his mind; for (said he) when I am awake I endeavour to cast them out. In the night his Father and Uncle E. H. sitting up by him, heard him say, methinks I hear a voice through the Curtain, saying, *dost thou love the Lord Jesus?* On the sixth of the same month Mrs C.A. went again to visit him, to whom he said, *Mistresse the dew of heaven falls down upon me, even the dew from Harmon hill*: then he replied, Blessed be God; I hope there is a sentence to life; yea, saith he, to life eternal: Oh that I may be useful in doing some work for God, yea, in doing some good to them that I have been a companion of in wickall. After this, he said, Now Mrs, sin cannot hurt me, the devil cannot hurt me; nothing can hurt me, for my dear Mediator hath made Reconciliation for me: Oh! but what shall I do, if I live to go to the market; his mother in law asked why William? he replied, because if I hear any sweare I shall fall down, for I cannot bear it; he said also if I live, I shall be more by my self then ever I was, yet not alone; on the day following being his dying day he was laboring for breath Mrs C.A. desired him to tell her, how it was with him, he Answered very feelingly, *God will never take his holy spirit from me*; and said Mrs I am going to my dear Lord Jesus, *Heaven's near, Heaven's near.* Mr R. being present, spake many comfortable words to him, which he received with joy, lifting up his hands towards heaven and saying it to his breast, which was the sign he said he would use, when he could not speak, that they might know the presence of God was still with him. The last number that he had in this world, it was judg'd Satan began to be buisy with him, for he upon his awaking cryed out I have sinned, I have sinned; doubling his words, Oh what shall I do? what shall I do? his mother said to him, *I hope thy sins are blotted out, and thy name is written in the Lambs book of life*: after which words he lay silent a little while, then throwing forth his arms to each side of the bed; very audibly and triumphantly said, I am full, I am full, God hath taken away all my pain; which were his last words, and with two little sighs he breathed out his soul and slept in Jesus, when he was about 28. years old, leaving this life the 7th. of January, 1674. *Hallelujah.*

We (some of his poor Neighbours were so wonderfully taken with that excellent frame of spirit that was found in him at his latter end, being a brand plucked out of the fire) cannot for the sake of survivors but speak and publish some of these Remarkable Passages at his Death, which we were Eye and Ear witnesses of.

Christian Adderly,
William Weyland the elder,
and Mary his Wife.
Dorothy Weyland late-widow.

Elisha Harris and
Elizabeth his wife.
Elizabeth Verry.
With divers others.